

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FEA-02 ACDA-19 SCI-06 DRC-01 /171 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961

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IVE.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, OVIP, IN

SUBJECT: CHRYSLER INTERVIEW WITH DAE CHAIRMAN SETHANA

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI PRIORITY FROM BOMBAY DTD JUL 29

QUOTE: BOMBAY 1714

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN OVIP IN

SUBJ: CHRYSLER INTERVIEW WITH DAE CHAIRMAN SETHNA

REF NEW DELHI 9873

1. MACK CHRYSLER, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, HAS GIVEN ME A BRIEF BAREBONES RUNDOWN ON HIS INTERVIEW EARLIER TODAY WITH DAE CHAIRMAN SETHNA. INDICATED SETHNA ONE OF MOST IMPRESSIVE INDIAN OFFICIALS HE HAD MET SINCE COMING INDIA AND INTERVIEW HIGH POINT OF VISIT. (IN COURSE LONG TALK WITH CHRYSLER THIS PAST FRIDAY, HE INDICATED HE HAD LEFT DELHI WITH GENERALLY UNFAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF INDIAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE HAD MET, SO SETHNA HAS APPARENTLY RESTORED HIS FAITH SOMEWHAT.) FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF POINTS REFLECT SETHNA'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED BY  
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CHRYSLER.

2. SETHNA SAID DAE ASKING FOR 174 CRORES IN FIFTH PLAN FBL R AND D AND WILL LIKELY GET 111 CRORES. THIS CONNECTION SAID IT IMPOSSIBLE SEPARATE OUT AMOUNT APPLICABLE PURE ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ON TOTAL BUDGET, DAE ASKING FOR 607.6 CRORES AND WILL LIKELY GET 497 CRORES.

3. RE MAY TEST, DOESN'T KNOW WHY SUCH A JAUNDICED VIEW TAKEN ABROAD. IF INTERESTED IN WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT, TEST WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOVE GROUND. HAD PURPOSELY PICKED SHALE FORMATION FOR

UNDERGROUND TEST RATHER THAN HARD ROCK SINCE THAT COULD HAVE PROMPTED UNNECESSARY REACTION. THEY (DAE) HAD THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD FIND SOME RADIOACTIVITY AND WHILE THEY HAVE NOT REACHED LAST LAYER AS YET, THEY HAVE FOUND NONE THUS FAR. THIS MOST INTERESTING FACET OF TEST. WILL, HOWEVER, TAKE ANOTHER 4 TO 5 MONTHS TO ANALYZE DATA. WHEN ANALYSIS COMPLETED, RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EXCEPT AS REGARDS DEVELOPMENT EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. DO NOT WISH REVEAL ANY DATA WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PROLIFERATION.

4. IN RESPONSE QUESTION RE ADDITIONAL TESTS, SETHNA REPLIED THAT UNLESS NEEDED, THERE WON'T BE ADDITIONAL TESTS AND THEY WON'T KNOW UNTIL ANALYSIS COMPLETED. "MUST KNOW WHAT WE HAVE BEFORE WE KNOW WHAT WE NEED." REGARDING POSSIBLE PEACEFUL USES, SETHNA CITED EXAMPLE POSSIBLE USTPNE FOR DEVELOPMENT VISCOUS OIL FIELD AT 2000 METERS NEAR MADRAS. THIS CONNECTION SETHNA SAID "NO ONE LISTENS TO US WHEN WE SAY EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY."

5. ON TIMING MAY TEST, SETHNA SAID DECISION DETONATE DEVICE MADE AT TOP LEVEL GOI AS WELL BASIC TIMING, HOWEVER, "WE (DAE) DECIDED EXACT DATE".

6. ON DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BOMB AND DEVICE FOR PNE, SETHNA MADE TWO POINTS: A) FIVE POWERS WITH WEAPONS HAVE ALL TESTED ABOVE GROUND; AND B) SIZE, WEIGHT, SHAPE, ETC. OF DETONATOR CRUCIAL FOR WEAPON BUT NOT SO FOR DEVICE FOR PNE. ADDED PERSONAL COMMENT THAT WEAPONS REPRESENT USELESS INVESTMENT.  
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7. IN RESPONSE POINT CHRYSLER MADE THAT JAPANESE SCIENTISTS

WOULD LIKELY OPPOSE ANY GOJ DECISION BUILD WEAPONS AND WOULD INDIAN SCIENTISTS REACT SIMILARLY, SETHNA SAID THEY HAD NEVER MEASURED FEELING AMONG INDIAN SCIENTISTS ABOUT BUILDING WEAPONS AND THEREFORE COULDN'T SAY. AND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO HOW ASSURE INDIAN SCIENTISTS TEST FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES,

SETHNA HAD SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO LACK OF EFFORT ON PART  
GOI/DAE TO ASSURE TO THIS END. IN THIS CONTEXT, SETHNA CITED,  
"OPENNESS" OF TROMBAY (COMPARE COMMENT PARA 4.B. OF BOMBAY 0705  
APRIL 4, 1973 ON THIS POINT).  
BANES UNQUOTE  
MOYNIHAN

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